EXCISE

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81 BANGKOK 52987

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ACTION PM-09
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EA-10 IO-15 SSO-00 HA-06
CCO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OC-06 /069 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6252
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHINGTON DC// IMMEDIATE
CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA IMMEDIATE
CDRAARADCOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD IMMEDIATE
CDC ATLANTA GA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL UDORN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY I. Hewren DATE 8/3/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 52987
DIA FOR GENE HENDERSON
EO 12065: GDS 11/14/87 (DEAN, JOHN GUNTHER) OR-M
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, MOPS, SREF, PORG, LA CB VM UR
SUBJ: BLOOD SAMPLES FROM REPORTED LAO VICTIM OF
NOVEMBER 6 "GAS" GRENADE INCIDENT IN LAOS
REF: BANGKOK 52833
1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: WE ARE POUCHING BLOOD SAMPLES FROM A LAO REFUGEE WHO ALLEGEDLY SUFFERED A "POISON GAS" INJURY DELIVERED BY AN EXPLODING YELLOW SMOKE GRENADE IN A BATTLE IN NORTHERN VIENTIANE PROVINCE, NOVEMBER 6. THE PATIENT, EXAMINED ON NOVEMBER 11 BY MEDICAL DOCTORS FAMILIAR WITH POISON GAS SYMPTOMS, SUFFERED FROM WEEPING DERMITITIS, EECHYMOSIS AND EDEMA, ALL IN THE HEAD AND NECK AREA. TWO TEST TUBES OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM

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THE VICTIM AND ARE BEING POUCHED, ETA WASHINGTON NOV 15, ALONG WITH SEPARATELY COLLECTED ALLEGED "YELLOW POWDER" SAMPLE FROM KAMPUCHEA REPORTED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.
3. PANAM FLIGHT 001 -- ARRIVING WASHINGTON NATIONAL AT 2025, NOV 15 WILL CARRY BLOOD SAMPLES DRAWN FROM A LAO REFUGEE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE EXPERIENCED A "POISON GAS" ATTACK ON NOVEMBER 6. THE BLOOD IS CONTAINED IN DIPLOMATIC POUCH NO KR-840 AND SHOULD BE CARRIED IN PLANE'S "CHILLER." THE VICTIM, A LAO RESISTANCE FIGHTER, CLAIMS THAT A GRENADE THROWN BY AN ENEMY SOLDIER (NFI) BURST APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF METERS FROM HIM RELEASING A YELLOW SMOKE WHICH ENVELOPED HIM.
4. THE VICTIM IS NOW IN [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] DOCTOR INITIALLY DESCRIBED VICTIM'S SYMPTOMS AS: EDEMA OF THE HEAD,

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WE[redacted]NG DERMITITIS AND ECHYMOSIS. [redacted] B1A9

[redacted] NOTES ON THE VICTIM FOLLOWS:

5. THE VICTIM [redacted] WAS A MEMBER OF B1A9
A 70 MAN LAO RESISTANCE UNIT OPERATING IN NORTHERN VIENTIANE PROVINCE. THE VICTIM WAS INJURED IN A FIRE-FIGHT ON NOV 6 BY AN EXPLODING "YELLOW SMOKE" GRENADE (NO FRAGMENT INJURIES) WHICH BURST APPROXIMATELY 1 AND 1/2 METERS FROM THE VICTIM. THE BLAST BLINDED THE VICTIM FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES, CAUSING MUCH TEARING. WITH THE AID OF A COMRADE WHO WAS INJURED WITH A BULLET WOUND IN THE ARM, THE VICTIM [redacted] WITHIN B1A5
THE FIRST FEW HOURS, AND DURING SUCCEEDING DAYS THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS DEVELOPED, WHICH THE VICTIM ATTRIBUTED

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TO "YELLOW SMOKE." (THE SYMPTOMS WERE CLEARLY OBSERVABLE TO THE TWO PHYSICIANS): EDEMA OF THE HEAD AND NECK; GENERAL DERMETITIS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN DUE TO A CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE OR TO AN INFECTIVE PROCESS SUCH AS A WIDESPREAD IMPETIGO; THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF SMALL BLISTERS (2-5MM) FULL OF SERUS FLUID, SOME OF THEM OOZING. THERE WERE MORE IN THE HAIR AND ON THE NECK (SIDES AND BACK). VICTIM APPEARED TO HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH CHEST OR HANDS. THE VICTIM COMPLAINED THAT THE AFFECTED AREAS WERE PAINFUL BUT DID NOT ITCH. HE CLAIMED THAT THEY BEGAN TO DEVELOP HOURS TO DAYS AFTER THE GRENADE WENT OFF. (THE CAMP DOCTOR NOTED THAT THE VICTIM SAID HE WORE A SHIRT BUT HAD NO PROTECTION OF THE HEAD OR NECK AREA.) THE VICTIM ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE A MILD CONJUNCTIVITIS IN BOTH EYES. SEVERAL MM OF SKIN BENEATH BOTH EYES APPEARED TO BE OF DARKER HUE, AS IF IT HAD BEEN BURNED RECENTLY. [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE DIAGNOSIS: (HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE CASE REPRESENTED) "FIRST CHOICE: INFECTIVE PROCESS; SECOND CHOICE: CHEMICAL REACTION."

6. [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] TWO TEST TUBES (8 CC EACH) OF BLOOD FROM VICTIM. ONE TUBE IS OF CLOTTED BLOOD; THE OTHER CONTAINS EDTA. BLOOD WAS DRAWN 1100 NOV 11 LOCAL TIMES. THE BLOOD SAMPLES WERE INITIALLY REFRIGERATED, BUT THEN WERE TRANSPORTED UNREFRIGERATED FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 HOURS BEFORE BEING RE-REFRIGERATED.

7. [redacted] B1A5

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BANGKOK 52987
8. WE ARE POUCHING TO EA/VLK [redacted] NOTES ON
THE VICTIM. THE BLOOD SAMPLES AND NOTES ARE BEING SENT
IN THE SAME POUCH. THE POUCH WILL BE REFRIGERATED IN
PANAM CHILLER DURING FLIGHT (REQUEST DIA COORDINATE WITH
PANAM NEW YORK) TO ASSURE PANAM COOPERATION. THIS
POUCH WILL ACCOMPANY ANOTHER POUCH (NOT REFRIGERATED)
CONTAINING "YELLOW POWDER" SAMPLES FROM NOVEMBER 10 AIR
ATTACK IN KAMPUCHEA, DETAILS OF WHICH WERE TRANSMITTED
BY REFTEL. DEAN
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